



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/585,743

08/11/2008

Kevin Turnbull

1508

54975

7590

05/11/2011

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
10 ST. JAMES AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02116-3889

EXAMINER

MYERS, GLENN F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3652

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/11/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/585,743	TURNBULL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	GLENN MYERS	3652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

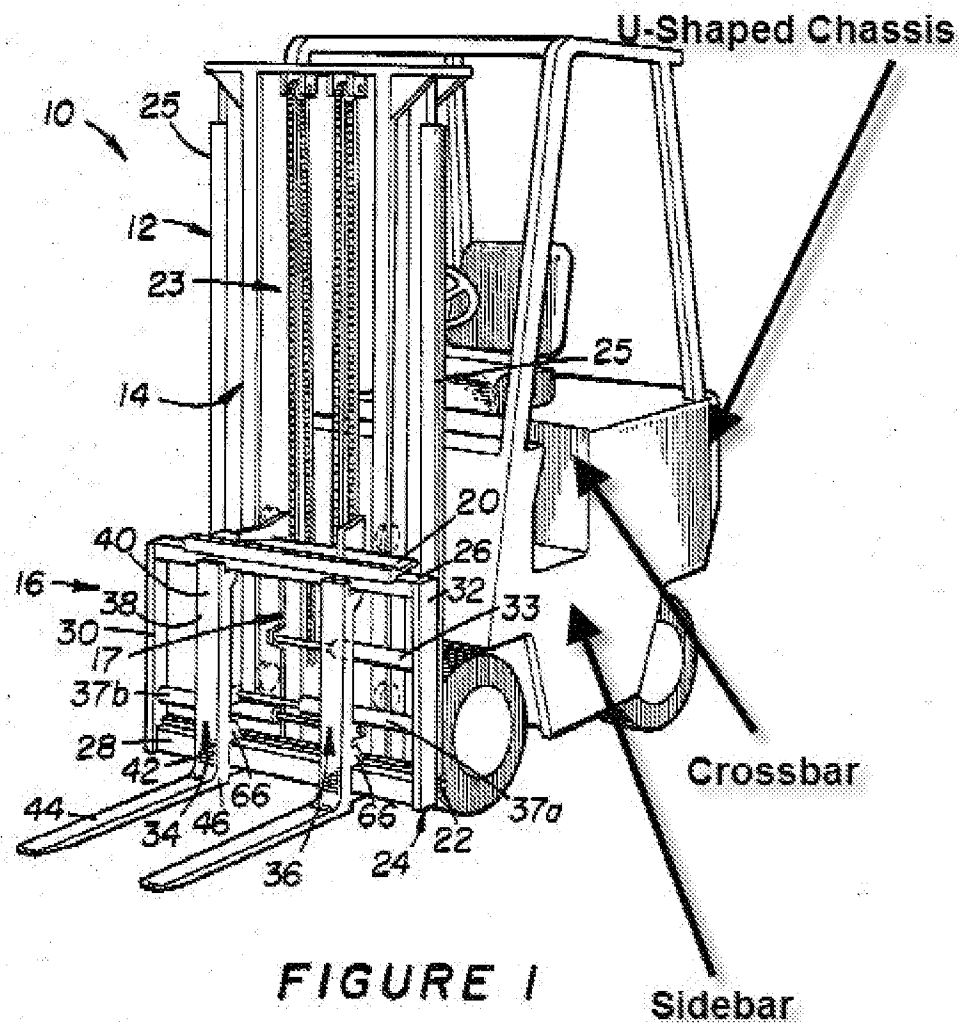
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 14, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson 4,392,773 and in view of Moffett et al. 2,259,292.

3. In Re Claims 14, 18, Johansson teaches a forklift truck (10, Fig. 1) for mounting on the rear of a carrying vehicle, the forklift truck comprising a u-shaped chassis having a crossbar and pair of side bars mounted at the ends of the crossbar and projecting forwardly therefrom in the longitudinal direction of the truck, (See Fig. 1 below) a wheel (Fig. 1) located adjacent the front of each of the sidebars, a steerable rear wheel (Fig. 1) located centrally on the crossbar, a driver's station positioned to one side of the chassis and a motive power unit, the chassis mounting a lifting member (12, Fig. 1) carrying forks (44, Fig. 1), the lifting member being connected to the forks by way of a side shift mechanism (16, Fig. 1) comprising a fixed carriage (17, Fig. 1) and a movable carriage (34, Fig. 1) slidably mounted on the fixed carriage and means to shift the movable carriage relative the fixed carriage from a central position to positions laterally extending therefrom on either side of the fixed carriage, the means to shift the movable carriage laterally relative the fixed carriage further comprises a pair of fluid actuated rams (33, 37a) each having a cylinder, a piston and

Art Unit: 3652

an elongate piston rod connected at one end to the piston, the cylinders of the pair of fluid actuated rams being connected together side by side, the free end of one of the piston rods being connected to the fixed carriage and the free end of the other piston rod being connected to the movable carriage.



4. Johansson does not teach a driver's station positioned to one side of a chassis and a motive power unit positioned on the opposite side of the chassis.

Art Unit: 3652

5. However, Moffett et al. 2,259,292 teaches a driver's station (Fig. 1) positioned to one side of a chassis (2, Fig. 1) and a motive power unit (Abstract, 2nd sentence) positioned on the opposite side of the chassis; and each fluid actuated ram is a hydraulic ram.

6. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to position a driver's station on one side of a chassis and a motive power unit on the other side in the forklift truck of Johannson as taught by Moffett et al. in order to maneuver the forklift truck.

7. In Re Claim 21, Johannson teaches that there is a means to operate the fluid operated rams independently of each other.

8. In Re Claim 22, Johannson teaches friction reducing members (92, Fig. 2) positioned intermediate the movable carriage and the fixed carriage.

9. Claims 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Johannson/Moffett.

10. In Re Claim 23, Johannson/Moffett discloses the claimed invention except for friction reducing members being any one of a brass pad, a nylon pad or roller bearings. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a brass or nylon pad as the bushing of Johannson/Moffett, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. Please note that in the instant

Art Unit: 3652

application, applicant has not disclosed any criticality for the claimed limitations.

11. In Re Claim 25, Johansson/Moffett discloses a movable carriage movable to a central position using one fluid actuated ram and another fluid actuated ram as discussed above. However, Johansson/Moffett does not expressly disclose that when the movable carriage is in the central position, one of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully extended configuration while the other of the fluid actuated rams is in a fully retracted position.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have one of the fluid actuated rams in the fully extended configuration and the other in the fully retracted configuration when the movable carriage is at the central position because Applicant has not disclosed that having one of the fluid actuated rams in the fully extended configuration and the other in the fully retracted configuration when the movable carriage is at the central position provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the fluid actuated rams of Johansson/Moffett because they are able to move the movable carriage to the central position.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Johansson/Moffett to obtain the invention as specified in the claim 25.

12. Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett.

Art Unit: 3652

13. In Re Claim 26, Johannson/Moffett discloses a movable carriage movable to a central position using one fluid actuated ram and another fluid actuated ram as discussed above. However, Johannson/Moffett does not expressly disclose that when the movable carriage is in the central position, both of the fluid actuated rams are in a half extended configuration with the pistons at half stroke in the cylinders.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the fluid actuated rams in a half extended configuration with the pistons at half stroke in the cylinders when the movable carriage is at the central position because Applicant has not disclosed that having the fluid actuated rams in a half extended configuration with the pistons at half stroke in the cylinders when the movable carriage is at the central position provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the fluid actuated rams of Johannson/Moffett because they are able to move the movable carriage to the central position.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Johannson/Moffett to obtain the invention as specified in the claim 26.

14. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johannson/Moffett as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Schuster 4,095,714.

15. In Re Claim 15, Johannson/Moffett teaches the forklift truck of Claim 14 as discussed above.

Art Unit: 3652

16. Johansson/Moffett does not teach forks mounted on a framework, the framework being mounted for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the forklift truck, the forks being movable under the operation of a rotating ram.

17. However, Schuster teaches forks (Fig. 1, 53) mounted on a framework (Fig. 1, Tilt Body), the framework being mounted for pivotal movement (Fig. 1) about a horizontal axis parallel (Fig. 2, Axis through spindle 36) to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the forklift truck, the forks being movable under the operation of a rotating ram (Fig. 4, 44).

18. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a framework mounted for pivotal movement with the forklift truck of Johansson/Moffett as taught by Schuster in order to move the forks.

19. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Sewell 4,615,533.

20. In Re Claim 16, Johansson/Moffett teaches the forklift truck of Claim 14 as discussed above.

21. Johansson/Moffett does not teach a single actuated ram and there is further provided a return biasing means urging each of the single acting rams to a fully contracted configuration.

Art Unit: 3652

22. However, Sewell teaches a fluid actuated ram being a single actuated ram and further providing a return biasing means urging the ram to a return position. (Column 6, Lines 52-58)

23. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a single acting ram and a return biasing means with the forklift truck of Johansson/Moffett as taught by Sewell in order to reset the ram.

24. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Meitl 3,999,674.

25. In Re Claim 17, Johansson/Moffett teaches the forklift truck of Claim 14 as discussed above.

26. Johansson/Moffett does not teach that each fluid acting ram is a double acting ram.

27. However, Meitl teaches a fluid acting ram being a double acting ram. (Column 3, Lines 7-10)

28. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a double acting ram with the forklift truck of Johansson/Moffett as taught by Meitl in order to move the ram.

29. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Kuwayama et al 5,277,268.

30. In Re Claim 19, Johansson/Moffett teaches the forklift truck of Claim 14 as discussed above.

Art Unit: 3652

31. Johansson/Moffett does not teach that each fluid acting ram is a pneumatic ram.

32. However, Kuwayama teaches a fluid acting ram being a pneumatic ram (Claim 9)

33. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pneumatic ram with the forklift truck of Johansson/Moffett as taught by Kuwayama in order to move the ram.

34. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Field, Jr. 5,088,880.

35. In Re Claim 20, Johansson/Moffett teaches the forklift truck of Claim 14 as discussed above.

36. Johansson/Moffett does not teach that there is provided means to operate the fluid actuated rams in synchronization with each other.

37. However, Field, Jr. teaches a means to operate the fluid actuated rams in synchronization with each other. (Column 5, Lines 28-36)

38. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a means to operate the fluid actuated rams in synchronization with each other with the forklift truck of Johansson/Moffett as taught by Field, Jr. in order to maneuver a load.

39. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of Avitan et al 5,890,563.

Art Unit: 3652

40. In Re Claim 24, Johansson/Moffett teaches the forklift truck of Claim 14 as discussed above.

41. Johansson/Moffett does not teach an energy chain connected to a fluid line feed for each of the fluid actuated rams.

42. However, Avitan teaches an energy chain (Fig. 3, 82) connected to a fluid line feed (Fig. 3, 80) for a fluid actuated ram (Fig. 3, 62).

43. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add an energy chain connected to the fluid feed line of the forklift truck of Johansson/Moffett as taught by Avitan in order to control the fluid line.

44. Claims 27 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson and in view of Moffett and in view of Schuster.

45. In Re Claim 27, as best understood, the combination rejection of Claims 14 and 15 apply to the claim.

46. In Re Claim 31, the combination rejection of Claim 14, 21 and 27 applies to the Claim.

47. In Re Claim 32, the combination rejection of Claims 14, 25, and 27 applies to the Claim.

48. In Re Claim 33, the combination rejection of Claims 14, 26, and 27 applies to the claim.

49. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett/Schuster as applied to Claim 27 above, and further in view of Sewell.

Art Unit: 3652

50. In Re Claim 28, the combination rejection of Claims 14, 16, and 27 apply to the claim.

51. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett/Schuster as applied to Claim 27 above, and further in view of Meitl.

52. In Re Claim 29, the combination rejection of Claims 14, 17, and 27 apply to the claim.

53. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson/Moffett/Schuster as applied to Claim 27 above, and further in view of Field, Jr.

54. In Re Claim 30, the combination rejection of Claims 14, 20, and 27 apply to the claim.

55. Claims 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansson and in view of Moffett and in view of Field, Jr.

56. In Re Claim 34, as best understood, the combination rejection of Claims 14 and 20 applies to the claim.

57. In Re Claim 35, the combination rejection of Claims 14, 25, and 34 applies to the claim.

58. In Re Claim 36, the combination rejection of Claim 14, 26, and 34 applies to the claim.

Response to Arguments

59. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

60. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Yoo 5,509,774 discloses a forklift. Roller 3,684,113 discloses a forklift. Barda et al. 3,754,673 discloses a forklift.

61. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GLENN MYERS whose telephone number is (571)270-1160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday/7:30AM-5:00PM - 1st Friday Off.

Art Unit: 3652

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saul Rodriguez can be reached on 571-272-7097. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/G. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 3652

/Saúl J. Rodríguez/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3652